



"Enriching Lives"

## Los Angeles County's Contract Services Program

A unique plan for contracting municipal services through the County of Los Angeles, thus avoiding a duplication of services, is now an integral part of the services provided by county government in various municipalities of the County.

The plan was inaugurated in April 1954 when a new series of city incorporations began with the incorporation of the City of Lakewood. The plan was offered by the County Board of Supervisors as a means of providing municipal-type services for the new cities so that they could administer city government without the costly establishment of numerous city departments.

The County Contract Services Program allows a city to receive virtually all of its municipal services from various departments of County government and still maintain home rule through the medium of the city council.

Today, the Contract Services Program has advanced to the point that, in varying degrees, all of the 88 cities in the County contract for at least one or more County services. Now 37 of the newer cities incorporated since 1954 contract with the County for nearly all of their municipal services.

Under the Contract Services Program, the County will, upon request, provide municipal-type services to any city within the County at cost and at the same basic level provided by the County in serving the unincorporated territory. Cities may request that the level of services be increased, in which case the city pays for the accompanying increased cost.

The program provides that the County shall remain full supervisory control over County employees engaged in providing contract municipal services, while the city council or city administration shall generally determine the level and type of services it desires to receive. All service agreements contain a provision for their termination by either party.

Both the County Charter Section 56 <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> and the California State Government Code Sections 51300-51350 provide legal authority for the County to furnish such services by contract and permit the actual transfer of certain municipal functions to the County.

In the consolidation of municipal functions, the County has charter authority to blanket in city personnel to County services through Section 56 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub> of the Los Angeles County Charter.